REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
US IOTWS Small Grants Program (SGP)

U.S. Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program
from advanced technologies to resilient communities

This document describes the application process for small grants under the US Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program. This solicitation includes some, but not all pertinent technical information, terms, conditions and instructions required for submitting a proposal. For a detailed description of the Small Grants Program, see the US IOTWS Small Grants Manual (available on the website www.iotws.org or by request from the PI). As explained below, small grants applications will be accepted in two rounds. The deadline for the first round of applications is **April 28, 2006**.

About the US IOTWS Program

In response to the December 2004 Tsunami disaster, the United States government (USG) is implementing a two-year $16.6 million program to provide technical assistance in the development of an Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) for tsunamis and related coastal hazards. The United States is contributing to international efforts led by the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to develop an integrated system for the region. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is leading the US program with the coordination support of a contractor serving as the Program Integrator (PI). Key USG partners in the US IOTWS program include program include National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (USDA/FS), and U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA).

The US IOTWS Program will provide technical assistance to the region using an integrated, "end-to-end" approach. This means that the system will address all stages of early warning from initial hazard detection and warning to the final communication of the message to coastal communities at risk. In addition, the approach will be multi-hazard in that it will simultaneously address tsunami hazards and a number of other critical coastal hazards such as cyclones, sea swells, floods, and earthquakes.

Given the complexity of this multi-country, multi-agency program, USAID contacted with the IRG & Tetra Tech Joint Venture to serve as Program Integrator (PI) to provide broad coordination, logistical, training, and administrative support in all areas and at all levels of program implementation. Central to the role of PI is its ability to provide technical and program coordination-related rapid-response support to activities in multiple countries simultaneously. In this role, the PI manages the small grants component of the IOTWS Program.

About the Small Grants Program (SGP)

The SGP provides strategic opportunities for activities in the region that support, complement, or enhance development of "downstream" tsunami and multi-hazard warning system components at national and local levels. Through the SGP, the PI intends to seek out and engage various institutions capable of conducting national, local, and community-based activities as implementing partners while ensuring that the program resources are extended to produce long term impact as capacity and local capabilities are enhanced.

Under the US IOTWS Program, the SGP will provide grants valued at up to $25,000, with a more limited number (maximum of six grants) valued up to $100,000 for non-US organizations – totaling approximately 12 awards. The period of performance for all grants will be approximately one year, and all activities must be completed by August 15, 2007. Grants administered under this contract will be Simplified Grants, with rare exceptions (see ADS 303.5.15 http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303.pdf).

Activities Eligible for Funding under the SGP

Activities that contribute to the achievement of program results in a sustainable and tangible way will be considered for funding. As with the US IOTWS Program, the SGP will invest in large part in capacity building and technical assistance. SGP activities must complement US IOTWS Program activities and help catalyze and replicate pilot activities at the sub-national level in a manner that contributes to on-the-ground multi-hazard disaster mitigation, preparedness, and response. As with the US IOTWS Program, the SGP will invest in large part in capacity building and technical assistance for relevant stakeholders in the region, including training exercises at the local and community level. Grant applications that USAID and the PI will consider must contribute primarily to activities supporting Program Areas 3 and 4 of the US IOTWS Program, as follows:

Program Area 3: National Dissemination and Communication of Warnings
- national warning center capacity building;
- national disaster management capacity building;
- last-mile warning communications.

Program Area 4: Local Preparedness and Mitigation
- coastal community resilience;
- coastal hazard analysis and application capabilities;
- coastal mitigation practices.

These program areas are further described in Annex 12 of the Small Grants Manual. Specific activities that may be funded under the SGP include but are not limited to:

- Training and technical assistance;
- Small-scale pilot/demonstration activities, exercises, drills, and simulations;
- Capacity building exercises in local and small communities;
- Small-scale coastal rehabilitation; and/or
- Small-scale equipment upgrades, maintenance, and improvements directly tied to building local-level capacity and/or technical training in warning system operations.

Geographic Scope of SGP Funding

In addition to providing support for regional-level warning system components, the US IOTWS Program includes targeted technical support to Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, and the Maldives—the countries most severely affected by the December 2004 disaster. As a result, the SGP aims to fund only activities in those five focus countries, although activities that involve sharing best practices and lessons learned with other countries in the region will be considered.

Organizations Eligible to Apply under the SGP

The PI will consider applications for Small Grants from Asian, U.S., or international non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, associations, and universities, with primary emphasis on country-specific and community-level institutions. All applicants must present documentation that certifies their legal status in their country of origin and also be prepared to provide background on the degree of experience in their relevant technical areas.

How can I apply for a Small Grant?

As mentioned above, the US IOTWS Small Grants Manual details the important steps in the small grants process and guidelines for submitting grants applications.

Upon issuing this notice, the Small Grants Program Coordinator will immediately begin accepting **abstracts** in electronic format (Microsoft Word, PDF, and Excel files as appropriate) containing the following information:

I.   Project Title, Organization, and Point of Contact
II.   Project Objectives
III.   Expected Products/Outcomes
IV.   Relationship with ongoing projects & targeted beneficiaries
V.   Strategy for Sustainable Implementation and Activities
VI.   General Budget (include cost sharing elements, as applicable)

Deadlines for applying to the SGP will be 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time April 28, 2006, for the first grants round and the same time on June 19, 2006, for the second grants round. *Late submissions will not be accepted for consideration.*

The Small Grants Selection Committee will review all abstracts and only the organizations whose abstracts are consistent with the overall program principals of the US IOTWS Program will be asked to submit a full proposal. The format for a full proposal is provided in Annex 1 of the Small Grants Manual.

To evaluate all applications, USAID and the PI will convene a Small Grants Selection Committee for review and selection of grant recipients. The full grant proposals will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- Technical merits (50%):
    o The proposed activities directly contribute to the achievement of program results and the proposed activities and is consistent with the overall program principles of the US IOTWS Program;
    o The application addresses sustainable and tangible impacts of the proposed activity;
    o The proposed activities focus primarily on Program Areas 3 and/or 4;
    o The proposed activities will help to catalyze and replicate best practices and share lessons learned at a national or regional level;
    o The proposed activities address potential advantages for women, youth, and other marginalized groups;
    o The application takes into account cross-cutting issues and potential synergies; and
    o The request integrates elements of innovation and entrepreneurial spirit associated with the proposed activities of the potential grantee.
- Past performance (all contracts, grants or cooperative agreements involving similar or related programs over the past three years) (30%);
- Gender considerations (10%); and
- Cost effectiveness and cost realism (10%).

USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. The SGP will follow the requirements of USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS) 201, 302.5.6, and 303, the Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Governmental Recipients, the Required as Applicable Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Governmental Recipients, the provisions of the USAID/IOTWS contract Task Order number EPP-I-02-04-00024-00, and applicable U.S. and local law. In addition, all applicants from U.S. organizations will be expected to submit Form SF-424 and comply with 22 CFR 226, OMB Circulars, and the USAID Standard Provisions (all of

these documents are available through the USAID website at www.usaid.gov, or by request from the PI). All grantees must submit required certifications as established by ADS 303.5.8, as applicable.

For more information or to apply to the SGP, please contact:

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For more information on the US IOTWS Program, visit: www.iotws.org

About the US Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program
The US IOTWS Program is part of the international effort to develop tsunami warning system capabilities in the Indian Ocean following the December 2004 tsunami disaster. The US program adopts an "end-to-end" approach—addressing regional, national, and local aspects of a truly functional warning system—along with multiple other hazards that threaten communities in the region. In partnership with the international community, national governments, and other partners, the US program offers technology transfer, training, and information resources to strengthen the tsunami warning and preparedness capabilities of national and local stakeholders in the region. For more information please visit **www.iotws.org**.

U.S. Contribution to the
**Indian Ocean
Tsunami Warning
System**